

REMARKS

PENDING CLAIMS

Applicants have not canceled or added any claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending.

PRIORITY

Applicants would appreciate receiving the Examiner's acknowledgement of the claim for priority and an indication that the certified priority document, Japan 2000-203063, submitted herewith has been received.

DUTY OF DISCLOSURE

Applicants kindly request that the Examiner return the PTO-1449 form filed on January 18, 2001 as a part of the duty of disclosure. Enclosed is a copy of the PTO-1449 form.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody et al.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a method and system for generating and managing multiversion documents that are structured documents of the XML format, for example. The structured document includes one or more tree structures and each tree structure includes one or more hierarchically arranged nodes. Each node has a start tag and an end tag attached thereto. The present invention recognizes each node element lying between the start tag and the end tag, and extracts common portions and difference portions from the structured document by comparing the text character string included in each node element of the original version with that of the revised version. Each of the common portions and the difference portions has a node identifier attached thereto identifying the node or a part of the node and text character strings extracted from each document. A version identifier is attached to a unit of both the character string and its node identifier to identify the version that the character string belongs to, according to the present invention.

Moody et al. (Moody) produce a consolidated markup document from an original document and its edited documents (Fig. 3). Moody compares the original words included in a paragraph of the original document with the edited words included in a paragraph of the edited document to judge whether both belong in the same paragraph (Fig. 4, step 424; Fig. 5A-5C). If both belong in the same paragraph, then Moody checks if both have the same contents (Fig. 4B, step 428). If both have the same contents, Moody adds the original paragraph to the consolidated markup document (Fig. 4B, step 431). If they are different, Moody puts together the original paragraph and the edited paragraph to form a paragraph set (Fig. 4B, step 433), and adds a tag to the head of each paragraph (column 6, lines 4-32). The tag includes an identifier indicating original or one of the edits and a paragraph identifier.

Because Moody's document is one that a conventional word processor has produced, it includes neither a start tag nor an end tag. Accordingly, Moody compares a plurality of words between the original paragraph and the edited paragraph, determining if both are the same

paragraph or not. The present invention, which pertains to a structured document as a target, can distinguish a same node from a different node by comparing tags between the original version and the revised version.

Since paragraphs of a document disclosed by Moody do not have a tree structure, the reference does not disclose or suggest handling a structured document that has a tree structure or a nested structure. That is, paragraphs in a document of Moody's document editing system cannot be distinguished with respect to level structure within a structured document in a manner comparable to the present invention. Accordingly, the reference does render obvious the invention as claimed in claims 1-12 and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

New claims 13 and 14 are dependent from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and therefore should also be found to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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on Dec. 30, 2004, by John Mattingly